

REMARKS

The Notice to Comply mailed on December 29, 2006 has been received and reviewed. The application was considered non-compliant with the Sequence Rules as set forth in 37 §§ CFR 1.821-1825. The application is to be amended as previously set forth. No new matter has been added. All amendments are made without prejudice and disclaimer.

To comply with the Notice, sequences disclosed in the Specification including Tables 4, 8 and 10 have been identified by SEQ ID NOs. Sequence identifiers have been added to the Brief Description of the Figures to specifically identify the sequences presented in FIGs 2-4, 9-11 and 14-15. A copy of the Sequence Listing in computer readable form (CRF) is enclosed herewith. Persuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.821(c), the Sequence Listing on compact disc, instead of a paper copy of the Sequence Listing, is enclosed herewith. A statement under 37 CFR §§ 1.821-1825 is also provided herewith.

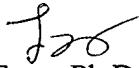
The Notice to Comply states that “(t)he instant claims refer to tables (1-3) in the specification for lists of nucleic acid sequences (signature sequences). Nowhere in the table and the specification the claimed nucleic acid sequences are recited”. Applicants respectfully traverse this statement. In the Specification (Paragraph 0014) as amended herein, “(a) “signature sequence” herein refers to a marker sequence and/or sequence or any other mode of identification of a sequence (*i.e.*, name)”. Accordingly, applicants have amended herein claims 4, 6, 13, 16 and 18 to recite “a signature sequence as identified as shown in Table 1, 2 or 3”. The signature sequences as claimed were specifically identified in Tables 1, 2 and 3 with corresponding sequence/gene and/or human homolog in the Specification as filed. Such sequence/gene and/or human homologs of the signature sequence are known in the art. Some of the signature sequences can be obtained through PCR reactions using the primers as specified in Tables 4, 8 and 10, as amended herein. The lengths of the PCR product corresponding to the signature sequences are specifically provided in Tables 4, 8 and 10. A person with ordinary skill of the art can produce the PCR products corresponding to the signature sequences using the primers provided in Tables 4, 8 and 10. Further, the Application as filed did disclose the nucleotide sequences corresponding to a number of signature sequences. These nucleotide sequences are included in the Sequence Listing enclosed herewith. To avoid redundancy of presenting the nucleotide sequences of all the signature sequences, the instant

application discloses in FIGs 2- 4, 9-11 and 14-15 genes/sequences and/or human homologs corresponding to only a number of representative signature sequences.

In addition, the instant claims, in one aspect, recite nucleic acid essentially equivalent or at least functionally equivalent of the signature sequences identified in Tables 1, 2 and 3. "(I)t is generally acceptable to present a single, general sequence in accordance with the sequence rules and to discuss and/or claim variants of that general sequence without presenting each variant as a separate sequence in the "Sequence Listing." See paragraph 7 of MPEP §§ 2422.03.

Considering the foregoing, Applicants believe that the application as filed provides sufficient information for the signature sequences recited in the instant claims. Entry of the amendments as set forth herein and examination of the application on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Li Feng, Ph.D.
Registration No. 57,292
Attorney for Applicants
TRASKBRITT, P.C.
P.O. Box 2550
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550
Telephone: 801-532-1922

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Enclosures: Appendices A and B
Copy of Notice to Comply
Sequence Listing in CRF
Two copies of Sequence Listing on CD
Associate Power of Attorney
Statement under 37 CFR 1.821-1825